

Professional Development Calendar 2025





★ ★ ★
85 YEARS ★ ★
LADY GOWRIE QUEENSLAND ★



Contents

JUNE	page 4
JULY	page 8
AUGUST	page 14
SEPTEMBER	page 22
OCTOBER	page 26
NOVEMBER	page 30
PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHY	page 32

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

To access sessions online via Zoom a link will be sent on registration.

TO REGISTER

please go to the link below event,

or go to <https://ladygowrieqlld.arlo.co/w/upcoming/>

Registrations close one week prior to date of event.



WEBINAR Statewide online - Collaborative Learning Community - (3 part) 3rd June, 17th June, 1st July

The Joy and Wonder of Words: Language and Literary rich learning

PRESENTER - Louise Phillips | **Tuesday 3rd June | 10.00am - 12.00pm | Part 1**

We invite you to tap into the joy and wonder of words to engage with and expand children's language and build children's literacy in personally meaningful ways (QKLG L&DA-Communicating). Through playful demonstration and engagement with words, you will come to understand: The role of nursery rhymes, finger plays & songs in language development. What makes an engaging, age-appropriate and culturally responsive story and how to engagingly tell a story to young children. How to choose rich, age-appropriate and culturally responsive children's literature; and how to meaningfully and purposefully engage with written words with young children through dramatic play, class displays, labelling of classroom resources, and class documentation.

The Joy and Wonder of Words: Language and Literary rich learning

PRESENTER - Louise Phillips

Tuesday 17th June | 10.00am - 11.00am | Part 2

Tuesday 1st July | 10.00am - 11.00am | Part 3

Following The joy & wonder of words: Language & literacy rich learning webinar you are invited to participate in a safe and respectful collaborative learning community to:

- inquire further into your professional learning on the provision of children's language and literacy learning;
- reflect on your application of strategies to expand children's language and literacy learning;
- share language and literacy rich learning resources;
- build connections with other educators.

.....

MINI CONFERENCE - BRIBIE ISLAND

Saturday 7th June | 9.00am - 3.00pm | LOCATION - Bribie Island, Sandstone Point Hotel

Finding Your Balance Exploring Slow Pedagogy in Early Childhood Education

PRESENTER - Catharine Hydon

The concept of Slow Pedagogy in early childhood education is gaining traction across the globe. Faced with increasing complexity and the rapid pace of change, educators are turning to an approach that emphasises the importance of balance - taking time to engage deeply with children, fostering meaningful relationships, and creating rich learning experiences. Slow pedagogy values childhood as a unique and important stage of life rather than merely a preparation for the future and offers practitioners a way to restore their balance and find our pace.

In this interactive session facilitated by Catharine Hydon participants will be invited to explore the principles of slow pedagogy and apply them to their context and the key ideas that shape our everyday practice.

Reducing Behaviour Through Meaningful and Authentic Relationships Workshop

PRESENTER - Kelly Oldfield

Join us for a dynamic workshop designed for educators focused on building meaningful relationships with children. This session emphasizes the importance of strong interactions to support positive behavior management. Participants will learn practical strategies for establishing consistent routines and setting predictable expectations, which are essential for creating a nurturing learning environment. By empowering educators to engage intentionally, this workshop aims to foster confidence and encourage positive behaviors in children. Elevate your teaching practice by developing the skills needed to connect with students and support their social-emotional growth effectively.

I am Me - What is your identity?

PRESENTER - Aunty Sharron mirii Bell

What makes you, you?

Join proud Gamilaraay Wiradjuri woman and QLD Children Rights Ambassador, Aunty Sharron mirii Bell as she takes us all on a journey of identity and rights of the child. Together we will acknowledge Country and our Elders through song and dance, followed by a beautiful ceremony lead by Aunty Sharron. This session will engage our senses as we identify who we are with hands-on activities and the meaning behind her new song, 'I Am Me.' "Understanding our own identity, not only gives us a sense of well being, but gives us a solid foundation for feeling loved and being accepted for who we are...for that is all we can be."

WEBINAR Statewide online - Collaborative Learning Community (3 part) 11th June, 25th June and 16th July

Planning for temporal environments that support children's social and emotional wellbeing.

PRESENTER - Jennifer Ribarovski | Wednesday 11th June | 10.00am - 12.00pm | Part 1

The concept of temporal environments and planning for the use of time to support learning has been incorporated into the **Early Years Learning Framework V2.0**, although it is not a new concept in early childhood theory. This session will unpack the meaning of temporal environments and consider how the organisation of the flow of the day can provide a sense of continuity and predictability that assists children to feel comfortable and have some agency over what to expect throughout the day, supporting their social and emotional wellbeing.

Ongoing professional discussions

PRESENTER - Jennifer Ribarovski | Wednesday 25th June | 10.00am - 11.00am | Part 2

Following on from the webinar in relation to this topic, this session provides an opportunity to unpack the concept of planning for the use of time and flow of the day, and to share further supporting research. The professional discussions will provide particle examples of planning from the sector, and invite participants to share their own experiences and implementation of any strategies post webinar attendance, to learn from each other, building a professional learning community.

Ongoing professional discussions

PRESENTER - Jennifer Ribarovski | Wednesday 16th July | 10.00am - 11.00am | Part 3

Following on from the Professional Discussions 1, this session will delve deeper into examples of planning for temporal environments that support children's social and emotional wellbeing, discussing successes and challenges, and considerations for future implementation.

.....

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY - TOWNSVILLE

Saturday 14th June | LOCATION - Townsville Yacht Club
1 Plume Street, South Townsville

Rhythmic Integrations

PRESENTER - Rhythmic Integrations | 9.00am - 3.30pm

This 6-hour workshop teaches participants how to use the evidence based Rhythm and Movement for Self Regulation (RAMSR) program including simple rhythm and movement activities to support positive behaviour for children aged 3-8 years old.

You can also adapt and customise the program to suit the specific needs of your children or organisation.

Core Concepts covered

- an overview of early childhood self regulation
- the theory and evidence for linking rhythmic movement and music activities to self-regulation development
- an introduction to the RAMSR-O Program practical skills for delivering simple rhythm and movement
- activities that require no prior music experience or training, and very few resources to implement.

.....

WALK ON COUNTRY - STRADBROKE ISLAND - Quandamooka Country

19th or 21st June | 8.30am - 5.00pm | LOCATION - Stradbroke Island

PRESENTER - Delvene Cockatoo-Collins

Please join us for a very special cultural tour on North Stradbroke Island led by Quandamooka artist, Delvene Cockatoo-Collins.

Quandamooka Walk on Country will provide an opportunity for Educators to engage in professional learning to strengthen professional practice in embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in your services and to learn more about local communities First Nations' histories, knowledge systems, cultures, languages and Country.

Experience the inspirational North Stradbroke Island through the eyes of a Quandamooka woman. Delvene and her family invite you to experience the stories, culture and heritage of this special island which they and their ancestors call home.

To Register: <https://ladygowrieqlld.arlo.co/w/events/2385-walk-on-country-full-day-group/3697>

.....



WEBINAR Statewide online

Thursday 31 July & 11Sept | 3.30pm - 4.30pm | Online

Implementing the EYLF v2.0: Getting the Foundations Right

PRESENTER - Catharine Hydon

Implementing the Early Years Learning Framework v2.0 is fundamental to quality early childhood education. As we get to know this updated version and before we leap into innovation, it is essential that we re-examine our foundational practice and ensure that everyday teaching and learning practice reflects the revised expectations.

In this session, educators and leaders are invited to revisit the updated framework to identify the implications for our foundational work in aspects like planning and engagement with the outcomes and the intersection with the QKLG.

Come along with foundational questions and bring your copy of the EYLF 2.0 and the QKLG.

WEBINAR Statewide online - Collaborative Learning Community - (3 part) 22nd July, 6th August, 16th September

Executive functioning: A responsive approach to empower children to thrive as 21st century learners

**PRESENTER - Dr Lisa Sonter and Sue Southey | Tuesday 22nd July |
4.00pm - 5.30pm | Part 1**

“Executive functioning refers to the mental processes in the brain that enable children to plan, focus attention, remember instructions and manage multiple tasks successfully” (AGDE, 2022, p. 66). These high-level thinking skills enable children to become effective and successful 21st century learners who can thrive in a complex, rapidly changing world. Increasingly, teaching teams are working with diverse and complex groups of children. Some children flourish in our learning environments whilst others require individualised support to regulate, adjust and thrive. An understanding of children’s learning from an executive functioning perspective enables you to respond to each child’s individuality whilst supporting children’s learning in ways that align with their growing brains. This session incorporates evidence informed strategies to support you to identify, refine and optimise effective and responsive early childhood pedagogies to maximise outcomes for every child.

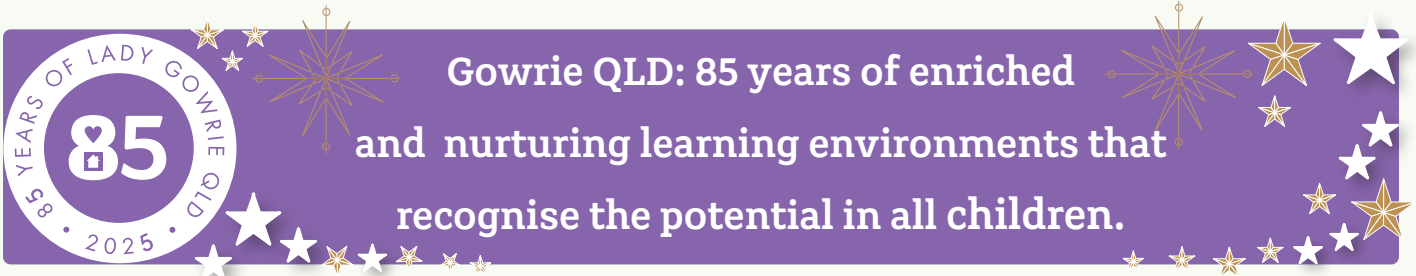
Part 2 & Part 3: Executive functioning: A responsive approach to empower children to thrive as 21st century learners

Tuesday 6th August | 4.00pm - 5.00pm | Part 2

Tuesday 16th September | 4.00pm - 5.00pm | Part 3

GOWRIE'S 85th ANNIVERSARY EVENT - BRISBANE

Saturday, 19th July | 8.00am - 4.00pm | LOCATION-Victoria Park, 309 Herston Rd, Herston



Welcome to Country -

PRESENTER - Songwoman Maroochy

Songwoman Maroochy is an Elder and the Songwoman and Law-woman of the Turrbal People, the original inhabitants of Brisbane, and the Dippil people of the Sunshine Coast area. She is a direct descendant of Daki Yakka – Chief of the Old Brisbane tribe.

Songwoman Maroochy is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, an internationally-renowned opera singer and has received awards both here in Australia and overseas. She was the first Australian to perform at the United Nations in New York in 1993 in honour of the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Songwoman Maroochy has been extensively involved in the Aboriginal community for many decades and continues to engender an understanding of Aboriginal culture to the wider community.

Growing Little People into Big People

Keynote - PRESENTER - Robyn Moore

Be prepared to be inspired, challenged, and thoroughly entertained! For over three decades, Robyn Moore has been captivating audiences across Australia and beyond, delivering more than 2,000 electrifying presentations that ignite the mind and stir the soul. With a rich background spanning Education, Advertising, and the Entertainment Industry, Robyn harnesses the irresistible "Power of the Word" to transform how we see ourselves and the world around us—sometimes in a single unforgettable moment.

This keynote is not just a speech—you will be transported on a vibrant journey of reflection and revelation. Robyn's unique, tailored storytelling seamlessly weaves humour, insight, and profound wisdom, which will have you both laughing and contemplating the deeper truths of life. She has an extraordinary gift: she "sells people back to themselves," helping individuals recognize old habits, own their choices, and unlock the vibrant lives they've always envisioned.

These life-altering shifts are lasting because they're rooted in stories and powerful distinctions that reawaken the spirit, remind us we are alive, and inspire us to claim the life we desire. Robyn Moore's presentations are often described as "life-changing," and once you experience her energy, wisdom, and wit, you'll understand why. Get ready for a keynote that will move, motivate, and leave you forever in a new, brighter point of view!

Fostering early language development through everyday interactions

PRESENTER - Professor Sheila Degotardi, Macquarie University Centre for Research in Early Childhood Education.

In this workshop, Sheila will explain the significance of early language development for children's language development and learning more broadly. With a focus on this importance, she will identify key features of a 'language - rich environment' that have been shown to support very young children's development. Using real-life scenarios, participants will explore these features to and will have opportunities consider how to apply these to their own talk and interactions with very young children.

Participants who choose to extend the workshop through the masterclass will be challenged to consider how to work with their educator team to strengthen the language environment jointly created by the educators and experiences in their classroom.

Children as Flexible thinkers: An executive functioning perspective

PRESENTERS - Dr Lisa Sontor and Sue Southey

Executive functioning skills are the higher order mental functions that include working memory, self-regulation and cognitive flexibility. This session explores educators' practice using an executive functioning lens to support children's learning and in particular their capacity to think flexibly. Supporting children to become flexible thinkers enables them to think creatively, to become problem solvers and innovators, setting them up to thrive as global citizens in an increasingly connected and complex world. Practical strategies will be explored as well as highlighting practices being used successfully in early childhood programs currently using an executive functioning lens for teaching and learning.

Ten Teachers© – Collaborative Leadership within a Relational Ecology

PRESENTER - Dr Geraldine Harris - Pathways to Resilience

Over the past decade, childhood has changed dramatically. In post-COVID Australia, children are facing heightened mental distress, worsened by climate change, misinformation, loneliness, and poverty - especially in low socio-economic communities. These challenges impact mental health, behaviour, and wellbeing. Our pedagogical practices, the words that we use, the thoughts that we think and the decision we make, have real world consequences in the lives of children.

This presentation reconceptualises Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory of Child Development and uses a provocation of the Ten Teachers © as the pedagogical map in which to navigate within this relational ecology. The Ten Teachers © make visible the reciprocal interactions between children's brains-minds-bodies and the ecologies of childhood. These co-generative interactions tell the story of how collaborative leadership (EYLF 2.0) not only helps educators understand early life adversities (Harris, 2022); but how pedagogical practices enhance early life opportunities (Harris, 2022) and build resilience with young children.

Our pedagogical practices, the words that we use, the thoughts that we think and the decision we make, have real world consequences in the lives of children. This presentation reconceptualises Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory of Child Development and uses a provocation of the Ten Teachers © as the pedagogical map in which to navigate within this relational ecology. The Ten Teachers © make visible the reciprocal interactions between children's brains-minds-bodies and the ecologies of childhood. These co-generative interactions tell the story of how collaborative leadership (EYLF 2.0) not only helps educators understand early life adversities (Harris, 2022); but how pedagogical practices enhance early life opportunities (Harris, 2022) and build resilience with young children.

Masterclass - Embracing the Luminous Opportunities and Joyful Possibilities in Childhood

This Masterclass focuses on how as educators; we can respond to the early life adversity (ELAs) facing our current cohort of children. The session will explore how using a co-generative approach can optimise the principles, pedagogy and practices of the EYLF to enrich children's early life opportunities (ELOs). The session will examine how collaborative leadership and pedagogical improvisation can open new pathways to ameliorate adversity and trauma, while enhancing and embracing the luminous opportunities and joyful possibilities of childhood.

Understanding the Escalation and De-escalation Process

PRESENTER - Kelly Oldfield

Highlights the role of educators in identifying escalation triggers and reducing their likelihood.

- Introduction to evidence-based, proactive behaviour support practices.
- Understanding of behaviour escalation stages and preventative strategies.
- Provides tools to minimize risk and implement de-escalation strategies.
- Detailed guidance on communicating with individuals to support de-escalation.
- Easy-to-follow escalation profiles, behaviour tracking, risk assessments, and management plans.

The Science of Connection – Attachment, Trauma, and Therapeutic Play in Early Childhood Settings

PRESENTER - Katelyn McArthur

This engaging and practical workshop explores the powerful intersection between attachment, trauma, and brain development, offering educators a deeper understanding of how early relationships shape a child's emotional and social world. Participants will gain insights into the impact of trauma on developing neural pathways and how it can influence behaviour, regulation, and relational patterns.

Through a blend of theory and hands-on strategies, this workshop introduces key therapeutic play skills that educators can use to engage with children in meaningful, responsive ways. By understanding the science of connection and applying therapeutic approaches within everyday routines, educators will be empowered to:

- Foster secure attachments
- Support co-regulation and resilience
- Create emotionally safe and responsive learning environments
- Recognise and respond to trauma-related behaviours with compassion and confidence

This workshop bridges play therapy principles with practical classroom tools, supporting educators to become a therapeutic presence in the lives of the children they care for.

I am Me - What is your identity?

PRESENTER - Aunty Sharron mirii Bell

What makes you, you?

Join proud Gamilaraay Wiradjuri woman and QLD Children Rights Ambassador, Aunty Sharron mirii Bell as she takes us all on a journey of identity and rights of the child. Together we will acknowledge Country and our Elders through song and dance, followed by a beautiful ceremony lead by Aunty Sharron. This session will engage our senses as we identify who we are with hands-on activities and the meaning behind her new song, 'I Am Me.' "Understanding our own identity, not only gives us a sense of well being, but gives us a solid foundation for feeling loved and being accepted for who we are...for that is all we can be."

Celebrating 85 years of Lady Gowrie Qld



MINI CONFERENCE - SOUTH BRISBANE

Friday 25th July | 9.00am - 3.00pm |

LOCATION - The Glen Hotel - Corner of Logan Rd & Gaskell St, Eight Mile Plains

A fair go - getting to grips with critical reflection

PRESENTER - Stephen Gallen

A key theme for services wishing to be rated as Exceeding the NQS is that critical reflection must be embedded across all areas of operations. The EYLF describes critical reflection as the process of considering issues from multiple perspectives in order to engage with issues of equity and social justice.

In essence this is about ensuring a fair and equitable 'go' for all children, families and educators within the curriculum. In this practical interactive workshop we will unpack just exactly what this means, how it looks, and how to document and demonstrate that you are doing this across the service in accessible, authentic and time-saving ways.

Planning for temporal environments that support children's social and emotional wellbeing

PRESENTER - Jennifer Ribarovski

The concept of temporal environments and planning for the use of time to support learning has been incorporated into the **Early Years Learning Framework V2.0**, although it is not a new concept in early childhood theory. This session will unpack the meaning of temporal environments and consider how the organisation of the flow of the day can provide a sense of continuity and predictability that assists children to feel comfortable and have some agency over what to expect throughout the day, supporting their social and emotional wellbeing.

The importance of clarity and connection as we guide children to learn, behave and thrive

PRESENTER - Dr Kaylene Henderson

In this highly engaging and thought-provoking session, presented by trusted Child Psychiatrist Dr Kaylene Henderson, we'll take a look at the specific types of interactions, responses and experiences that children need from us in order to learn and thrive, because sometimes our own emotions and expectations can cause our view of children and their needs to become a little...blurry...

Together we'll discover practical tips for promoting cooperation and positive behavioral outcomes; fostering children's emotional regulation skills; and encouraging greater independence.

And above all, you'll discover that the key to bringing out the best in children ... is you.

Please note: *This session will also serve as "Part 1" for those wishing to attend the follow-up online reflection discussion on the 8th August.*

8th August - Opt in - (for those who have attended Part 1)

Unlock Deeper Insights: Join Our Ongoing Professional Discussion!

Join our Collaborative Learning Community for an ongoing professional discussion that invites participants to reflect deeply and explore everyday challenges and successes with Kaylene as we strive to support positive behaviour change in our Early Learning environments.

DISCOVER AND LEARN - MELBOURNE STUDY TOUR

24th & 25th July | Two days | LOCATION - Gowrie Victoria

Join us for a unique opportunity for professional development and cultural exploration. This exclusive experience is designed for Teachers, Educators, Educational Leaders and service Managers, and anyone passionate about fostering a positive learning environment for young minds. Study groups are capped at small numbers to minimise disruption to the services we visit. Tour leading kindergartens in Melbourne known for their innovative teaching methods and child-centered approach. Engage in interactive sessions with renowned early childhood education experts, sharing best practices and the latest research in the field.

<https://ladygowrieqld.arlo.co/w/events/2388-melbourne-study-tours-2025/3702>

WEBINAR Statewide online

Wednesday 30th July | 10.00am - 11.00am

5 step positive behaviour support workshop

PRESENTER - Kelly Oldfield

You will walk away from this session with a 5-step process to support positive behavioural change. How to Implement effective data collection tools to identify the function of behaviour. We will explore consistent and predictable intervention strategies and build educator confidence in recognising patterns of behaviour and applying targeted intervention strategies.

WEBINAR Statewide online

Thursday 31st July | 9.00am - 12.00pm

H.I. Tech - Healthy Interactions with Technology meets real world impact includes an Introduction to Neuroscience for educators.

PRESENTER - Pathways to Resilience

Educators will be introduced to key neuroscience concepts and explore practical applications for the classroom. Focus is on supporting child wellbeing, building resilience, and helping to create a positive learning environment. Throughout the workshop participants will reflect upon their own teaching practice, considering the impact of the environment and their own interactions and communication on students' developing brains. This session will explore the impact of technology on children's emotional and social wellbeing and we will introduce strategies that support children with healthy interactions with technology..



WEBINAR Statewide online Series

Friday 1st August | 12.00pm - 1.30pm | Webinar

The importance of clarity and connection as we guide children to learn, behave and thrive

PRESENTER - Kaylene Henderson

In this highly engaging and thought-provoking session, presented by trusted Child Psychiatrist Dr Kaylene Henderson, we'll take a look at the specific types of interactions, responses and experiences that children need from us in order to learn and thrive, because sometimes our own emotions and expectations can cause our view of children and their needs to become a little...blurry...

Together we'll discover practical tips for promoting cooperation and positive behavioral outcomes; fostering children's emotional regulation skills; and encouraging greater independence.

And above all, you'll discover that the key to bringing out the best in children ... is you.

8th August - Unlock Deeper Insights: Join Our Ongoing Professional Discussion!

Join our Collaborative Learning Community for an ongoing professional discussion that invites participants to reflect deeply and explore everyday challenges and successes with Kaylene as we strive to support positive behaviour change in our Early Learning environments.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY - MACKAY

Saturday 2nd August | 9.00am - 3.30pm |

LOCATION - Ocean International

Rhythmic Integrations

This 6-hour workshop teaches participants how to use the evidence based Rhythm and Movement for Self Regulation (RAMSR) program including simple rhythm and movement activities to support positive behaviour for children aged 3-8 years old.

You can also adapt and customise the program to suit the specific needs of your children or organisation.

Core Concepts covered

- an overview of early childhood self regulation
- the theory and evidence for linking rhythmic movement and music activities to self regulation development
- an introduction to the RAMSR-O Program practical skills for delivering simple rhythm and movement
- activities that require no prior music experience or training, and very few resources to implement

MINI CONFERENCE - SUNSHINE COAST

Saturday 2nd August | 9am - 3pm | LOCATION - Buderim Tavern, 81 Burnett St, Buderim

Rethinking challenging Behaviour a Trauma informed approach

PRESENTER - Dr Geraldine Harris

This comprehensive workshop combines insights from trauma and attachment theory with strategies for addressing challenging behaviours in early childhood settings. Educators will explore the brain and body states associated with trauma, including the impact of implicit memory on children's sense of safety and the maladaptive behaviours that may emerge. Participants will be introduced to the concepts of early life adversities (ELA) and early life opportunities (ELO), gaining pedagogical strategies that promote stability and safety for children affected by trauma and disrupted attachment, enabling them to transition from surviving to thriving.

Additionally, the workshop will challenge participants to rethink problematic behaviours by examining their underlying causes. Through guided reflection, educators will assess their attitudes and beliefs regarding behaviour and intent, discovering how proactive responses can aid a child's ability to regulate their emotions and reactions. Drawing on neuroscience, the session will focus on the developmental aspects of the brain and encourage educators to understand children's behaviours by exploring their physical and emotional experiences. A toolkit of practical strategies will be developed, empowering educators to support children in managing feelings of overwhelm and calming their stress responses, ultimately fostering a nurturing and responsive learning environment.

Being playful with planning and programming : good for children, good for educators

PRESENTER - Stephen Gallen

Being an educator is a challenging and complex role with many demands on your time and energy. How do you maintain your own wellbeing while giving as much as you can to the children you are caring for and educating? And at the same time meet all the requirements that go with the role, the health and safety, the housekeeping and most of all - the planning and programming? Where is the time for you and the children to just 'play' and 'be' together?

In this session we will focus on how you can plan, design and implement a program that is truly play based, one that is child centred and supports both you and children to 'breathe' and to 'be'.

Through practical hands on experiences and real life stories of practice we will unpack the 'nuts and bolts' of just how you can use your observations and knowledge of children to extend on their interests, their learning and their development in truly play based ways. You'll get practical tips, suggestions, strategies and ideas not just for play based experiences but also for time saving ways to document your planning cycle and make the 'system' work for you.

Planning for temporal environments that support children's social and emotional wellbeing.

PRESENTER - Jennifer Ribarovski

The concept of temporal environments and planning for the use of time to support learning has been incorporated into the **Early Years Learning Framework V2.0**, although it is not a new concept in early childhood theory. This session will unpack the meaning of temporal environments and consider how the organisation of the flow of the day can provide a sense of continuity and predictability that assists children to feel comfortable and have some agency over what to expect throughout the day, supporting their social and emotional wellbeing.

WEBINAR Statewide online

Tuesday 5th August | 10.00am - 11.00am

A fair go - getting to grips with critical reflection

PRESENTER - Stephen Gallen

A key theme for services wishing to be rated as Exceeding the NQS is that critical reflection must be embedded across all areas of operations. The EYLF describes critical reflection' as the process of considering issues from multiple perspectives in order to engage with issues of equity and social justice.

In essence this is about ensuring a fair and equitable 'go' for all children, families and educators within the curriculum. In this practical interactive workshop we will unpack just exactly what this means, how it looks, and how to document and demonstrate that you are doing this across the service in accessible, authentic and time-saving ways.

.....

ADELAIDE STUDY TOUR 2025

7th & 8th August | Two days | LOCATION - Gowrie South Australia

Inspiring Inclusive and Culturally Safe Early Learning

PRESENTER - Gowrie South Australia

Immerse Yourself in Learning!

Embark on a transformative professional learning adventure in the vibrant city of Adelaide! Together, we'll unlock a wealth of knowledge, skills, and inspiration to cultivate a truly inclusive and culturally safe learning environment for our youngest learners.

Opportunities include:

- Guidance from Elders for embedding culturally responsive pedagogy into practice.
- Explore best practices in equity, inclusion, and cultural responsiveness as we visit 4 inclusive Early Learning Services and witness innovative approaches in action.
- Connect with like-minded educators on this transformative journey, fostering connections that will inspire and uplift you on this incredible journey.



ADELAIDE STUDY TOUR 2025

<https://ladygowrieqld.arlo.co/w/events/2386-adelaide-study-tours-2025/3700>

.....

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY - BRISBANE MURRUMBA DOWNS

Saturday 9th August | 9.00am - 3.00pm | LOCATION - Murrumba Downs Function Centre
Corner Dohles Rocks & Ogg Rds, Murrumba Downs

Storytelling - Promoting Language and Literacy

PRESENTER - Louise Phillips

Come and enjoy the wonders of stories and storytelling. This workshop provides a strong case for weaving storytelling regularly into your children's programs. Stories are great teachers, and storytelling provides an engaging way to learn. Louise will share insights on how to craft stories for telling with children, and how to weave them into children's tangled webs of learning. Participants will experience a range of told stories and explore key storytelling techniques for engaging young children and sparking rich learning. You will gain insight on:

- How to choose suitable stories for different age groups;
- How to tell stories in ways that captivate young children's attention, imagination and curiosity;
- Why storytelling works as a powerful teaching strategy; and
- How storytelling can catalyse rich learning inquiries.

WEBINAR Statewide online

Wednesday 13th August | 10.00am - 12.00pm

Trauma and Attachment

PRESENTER - Dr Geraldine Harris

Research in neuroscience has provided us with an understanding of trauma and the implications of disrupted attachment on the developing brain. Children who have experienced trauma in their lives can be overwhelmed more easily as they become hypervigilant, watching for cues of threat. As they work to protect themselves, they often struggle in group settings such as the classroom. In this workshop, educators will gain a deeper understanding of the brain state associated with trauma, the impact of implicit memory on the ability of these children to feel safe, and adaptive behaviours that may present themselves in a school setting. Participants will be provided with strategies that can help to bring balance and safety to the experience of children who have been impacted by trauma or disrupted attachment, and enable them to move from survival to learning.

SUNSHINE COAST STUDY TOUR 2025

14th & 15th August | Two days | LOCATION - Pelican Waters Bush & Beach Kindergarten

Heartbeats of Early Childhood: A Two-Day Immersion at Pelican Waters Bush and Beach Kindy

PRESENTERS - Tyler Inglis, Kristen Zimmerlie, Hayley and Sue Inglis | 9am - 4.30pm

Pelican Waters Golden Beach Kindergarten (rated Excellent)

Join us at the Bush and Beach Kindy for a two-day immersion in professional conversation rooted in real environments with authentic and current practice. Throughout this experience we shall take a deep dive into the founding conceptual and practical elements which sustain the working heartbeat of our philosophy. Witness ways to truly implement these ideas by observing the children's experience as it happens.

Share dynamic dialogue with our passionate leaders, Tyler, Kristen, Hayley and Sue as they each delve into the topics that drive the early childhood educational experience in our setting. You will have the opportunity to share ideas and consider your own contexts as we amplify critical components of a healthy and fulfilling childhood.

- The power of attachment
- Deep listening
- Connection to the natural world
- Growth mindset

MELBOURNE STUDY TOUR 2025

21st & 22nd August | Two days | LOCATION - Gowrie Victoria

Discover and Learn - Melbourne Study Tour

PRESENTER - Gowrie Victoria

Join us for a unique opportunity for professional development and cultural exploration. This exclusive experience is designed for Teachers, Educators, Educational Leaders and service Managers, and anyone passionate about fostering a positive learning environment for young minds. Study groups are capped at small numbers to minimise disruption to the services we visit. Tour leading kindergartens in Melbourne known for their innovative teaching methods and child-centered approach. Engage in interactive sessions with renowned early childhood education experts, sharing best practices and the latest research in the field.



MELBOURNE STUDY TOUR 2025

<https://ladygowrieqld.arlo.co/w/events/2388-melbourne-study-tours-2025/3702>

WALK ON COUNTRY

Wednesday 27th August | 8.30am - 5.00pm | LOCATION: Stradbroke Island

Walk on Country - Stradbroke Island - Quandamooka Country

PRESENTER - Delvene Cockatoo-Collins

Please join us for a very special cultural tour on North Stradbroke Island led by Quandamooka artist, Delvene Cockatoo-Collins.

Quandamooka Walk on Country will provide an opportunity for Educators to engage in professional learning to strengthen professional practice in embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in your services and to learn more about local communities First Nations' histories, knowledge systems, cultures, languages and Country.

Experience the inspirational North Stradbroke Island through the eyes of a Quandamooka woman. Delvene and her family invite you to experience the stories, culture and heritage of this special island which they and their ancestors call home.

<https://ladygowrieqlld.arlo.co/w/events/2385-walk-on-country-full-day-group/3699>



MINI CONFERENCE - TOWNSVILLE

30th August | 9.00am - 3.00pm | LOCATION - Townsville Yacht Club

Building and Construction Play – Extending children’s thinking

PRESENTER - Sue Southey

Children engaging in building and construction can play with little or no adult support. However, when we focus on or engage in this play with children we enhance opportunities for learning. Through this play we can extend children’s thinking, enhance creativity, promote problem solving, encourage collaboration and support children’s executive functioning. This workshop will explore intentional teaching strategies and resourcing to capitalize on building and construction play.

“Telling Our Stories” - First Nations Narratives in Early Childhood Education

PRESENTER - Vicki Saylor - *Vicki is a descendant of Manbarra Tribe, Birragubba Nation, Tanna and Darnley Island, Torres Strait and White Australian.*

This engaging presentation equips Early Childhood Educators with the skills to deliver authentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories to young children. Participants will delve into culturally respectful storytelling techniques, gain practical tips, and discover effective tools for integrating Indigenous narratives into their teaching practices. Through interactive discussions and shared experiences, educators will learn to forge deep connections with the stories and refine their delivery while nurturing an inclusive classroom environment. The session highlights the importance of cultural sensitivity, respectful role modelling, and genuine engagement with community traditions. Join us as we connect to culture, enhance your storytelling repertoire, and inspire a profound appreciation for Indigenous heritage.

Being playful with planning and programming: good for children, good for educators

PRESENTER - Stephen Gallen

Being an educator is a challenging and complex role with many demands on your time and energy. How do you maintain your own wellbeing while giving as much as you can to the children you are caring for and educating? And at the same time meet all the requirements that go with the role, the health and safety, the housekeeping and most of all - the planning and programming?

Where is the time for you and the children to just ‘play’ and ‘be’ together?

In this session we will focus on how you can plan, design and implement a program that is truly play based, one that is child centred and supports both you and children to ‘breathe’ and to ‘be’.

Through practical hands on experiences and real life stories of practice we will unpack the ‘nuts and bolts’ of just how you can use your observations and knowledge of children to extend on their interests, their learning and their development in truly play based ways. You’ll get practical tips, suggestions, strategies and ideas not just for play based experiences but also for time saving ways to document your planning cycle and make the ‘system’ work for you.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY - BRISBANE

10th September | 9.00am - 3.00pm | LOCATION - Mt Gravatt Bowls Club
1873 Logan Rd, Upper Mount Gravatt

The joy & wonder of words: Language & literacy rich learning

PRESENTER - Louise Phillips

Join Louise, a highly experienced storyteller, educator and author, in a full day of playfully wondering with the joy of words. Across the day you will learn theory and practice for expanding children's language and building children's literacy in personally meaningful ways (QKLG L&DA-Communicating). You will become equipped with deeper understandings of language and literacy development, decoding/encoding texts, immersive language and literacy learning, literacy genres and critical literacy.

Through practical experiences with:

- nursery rhymes, finger plays & songs;
- engaging, age-appropriate and culturally responsive stories and storytelling;
- rich, age-appropriate and culturally responsive children's literature;
- meaningful and purposeful language and literacy rich dramatic play and class displays, labelling of classroom resources, and class documentation.

You will expand your confidence and resourcing to provide quality language and literacy rich learning for the children you educate.

The joy & wonder of words: Language & literacy rich learning

24th September & 8th October | 10.00am - 11.00am | Ongoing reflective discussions
(3 part Collaborative Learning Community) Online Webinar

PRESENTER - Louise Phillips

Following The joy & wonder of words: Language & literacy rich learning full day workshop you are invited to participate in a safe and respectful collaborative learning community to:

- inquire further into your professional learning on the provision of children's language and literacy learning;
- reflect on your application of strategies to expand children's language and literacy learning; share language and literacy rich learning resources;
- build connections with other educators.

.....

WEBINAR Statewide online

Wednesday 10th September | 10.00am - 12.00pm

Fostering early language development through everyday interactions.

PRESENTER - Professor Sheila Degotardi, Macquarie University Centre for Research in Early Childhood Education.

In this workshop, Sheila will explain the significance of early language development for children's language development and learning more broadly. With a focus on this importance, she will identify key features of a 'language - rich environment' that have been shown to support very young children's development. Using real-life scenarios, participants will explore these features and will have opportunities to consider how to apply these to their own talk and interactions with very young children.

.....



WEBINAR Statewide online - Collaborative Learning Community - 3 part

Tuesday 16th September | 10.00am to 12.00pm

Being playful with planning and programming : good for children, good for educators

PRESENTER - Stephen Gallen

Being an educator is a challenging and complex role with many demands on your time and energy. How do you maintain your own wellbeing while giving as much as you can to the children you are caring for and educating? And at the same time meet all the requirements that go with the role, the health and safety, the housekeeping and most of all - the planning and programming?

Where is the time for you and the children to just 'play' and 'be' together?

In this session we will focus on how you can plan, design and implement a program that is truly play based, one that is child centred and supports both you and children to 'breathe' and to 'be'.

Through practical hands on experiences and real life stories of practice we will unpack the 'nuts and bolts' of just how you can use your observations and knowledge of children to extend on their interests, their learning and their development in truly play based ways. You'll get practical tips, suggestions, strategies and ideas not just for play based experiences but also for time saving ways to document your planning cycle and make the 'system' work for you.

Being playful - an ongoing conversation

23rd September & 14th October | 10.00am -11.00am | Ongoing reflective discussions
(3 part online series)

PRESENTER - Stephen Gallen

Being an educator is a challenging and complex role with many demands on your time and energy.

How do you maintain your own wellbeing while giving as much as you can to the children you are caring for and educating?

And at the same time meet all the requirements that go with the role?

Where is the time for you and the children to just 'play' and 'be' together?

In this series of online sessions we will think and reflect together in a 'community of practice' to explore issues and weave some understandings around the challenges and opportunities for practice in our own settings. Expect moments of insight and inspiration alongside challenges and provocations as we dialogue and reflect together.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY - SUNSHINE COAST

13th September | 9am - 3.30pm | LOCATION - Surfair Beach Hotel, 923 David Low Way Marcoola

Rhythmic Integrations

This 6-hour workshop teaches participants how to use the evidence based Rhythm and Movement for Self Regulation (RAMSR) program including simple rhythm and movement activities to support positive behaviour for children aged 3-8 years old.

You can also adapt and customise the program to suit the specific needs of your children or organisation.

Core Concepts covered

- an overview of early childhood self regulation
- the theory and evidence for linking rhythmic movement and music activities to self-regulation development
- an introduction to the RAMSR-O Program practical skills for delivering simple rhythm and movement
- activities that require no prior music experience or training, and very few resources to implement

.....

ADELAIDE STUDY TOUR 2025

18th & 19th September | Two days | LOCATION - Gowrie South Australia

Inspiring Inclusive and Culturally Safe Early Learning

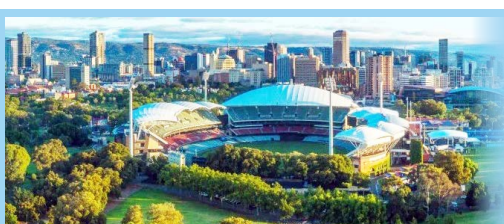
PRESENTER - Gowrie South Australia

Immerse Yourself in Learning!

Embark on a transformative professional learning adventure in the vibrant city of Adelaide! Together, we'll unlock a wealth of knowledge, skills, and inspiration to cultivate a truly inclusive and culturally safe learning environment for our youngest learners.

Opportunities include:

- Guidance from Elders for embedding culturally responsive pedagogy into practice.
- Explore best practices in equity, inclusion, and cultural responsiveness as we visit 4 inclusive Early Learning Services and witness innovative approaches in action.
- Connect with like-minded educators on this transformative journey, fostering connections that will inspire and uplift you on this incredible journey.



ADELAIDE STUDY TOUR 2025

<https://ladygowrieqld.arlo.co/w/events/2386-adelaide-study-tours-2025/3713>

.....

WEBINAR Statewide online - Workshop Series (2 part)

Wednesday 15th October | 10.00am to 11.30am

Creating an Environment for PLAY – Integrating Therapeutic Principles in Early Childhood Education

PRESENTER - Katelyn McArthur

This two-part workshop series empowers educators to create intentional, play-rich environments that support children's emotional wellbeing and development. Drawing on play therapy principles and early childhood pedagogy, this series bridges theory with practice—equipping educators with the skills and reflective space to foster truly responsive and therapeutic environments.

Part One: Foundations of Therapeutic Play in Early Childhood Settings

In this first session, educators will explore the core elements of therapeutic play, including the importance of safety, attunement, and emotional regulation. The workshop focuses on:

- Creating nurturing environments for exploration and expression
- Embedding structure and boundaries that support emotional security
- Using play as a pathway to connection and communication
- Practical strategies to engage children with intention, empathy, and presence

Participants will leave with tools to begin implementing therapeutic play strategies in their everyday practice.

22nd October - Part Two: Reflect, Connect, and Collaborate

This reflective session provides a collaborative space for educators to revisit the strategies introduced in Part One and explore how they have translated into their unique settings. Together, participants will:

- Reflect on experiences and insights gained from applying therapeutic play strategies
- Discuss real-world challenges and successes
- Collaborate with peers to deepen understanding and refine practice
- Explore next steps for sustaining a therapeutic approach to play

This session honours educators' voices and values the importance of professional growth through shared learning and contextual reflection.

.....

BEHAVIOUR MASTERCLASS

Saturday 18th October | 9.00am - 3.00pm | LOCATION: Mermaid Beach Bowls Club
2418 Gold Coast Hwy, Mermaid Beach

Rethinking Challenging Behaviour - A Trauma-informed approach

PRESENTER - Dr Geraldine Harris

This workshop equips educators with insights into trauma and attachment theory while addressing challenging behaviors in early childhood settings. Participants will learn about the brain and body states linked to trauma, the effects of implicit memory on children's sense of safety, and the resulting maladaptive behaviors. The concepts of early life adversities (ELA) and early life opportunities (ELO) will guide strategies that foster stability for children affected by trauma.

Additionally, the workshop will encourage educators to rethink problematic behaviors by examining their underlying causes. Through guided reflection, participants will assess their beliefs around behavior and intent, learning how effective responses can enhance children's emotional regulation. The session will draw on neuroscience to illuminate the developmental aspects of behavior and will provide a toolkit of strategies to help children manage feelings of overwhelm and calm their stress responses, fostering a nurturing learning environment.

A practical overview of the many influences on our expectations of children

PRESENTER - Dr Kaylene Henderson

Join us for this engaging and highly practical session, presented by Child Psychiatrist, Dr Kaylene Henderson, in which we'll explore some of the many factors that influence our expectations of children.

- Their attachment style (and ours too of course)
- The influence of temperament and culture
- Their stage of development
- Their neurotype and their experience of any sensory differences
- Their ability to emotionally regulate and capacity to "use their words" while they're upset
- And more...

"Children deserve a childhood where they are not expected to do things beyond their capability or beyond their understanding. They deserve acceptance for who they are at every stage of their development"

~ Stacey Shannon

.....

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY - BRISBANE SOUTH

Saturday 18th October | 9.00am - 3.30pm | LOCATION: Mt Gravatt Bowls Club
1873 Logan Rd, Upper Mount Gravatt

Rhythmic Integrations

This 6-hour workshop teaches participants how to use the evidence based Rhythm and Movement for Self Regulation (RAMSR) program including simple rhythm and movement activities to support positive behaviour for children aged 3-8 years old.

You can also adapt and customise the program to suit the specific needs of your children or organisation.

Core Concepts covered

- an overview of early childhood self regulation
- the theory and evidence for linking rhythmic movement and music activities to self-regulation development
- an introduction to the RAMSR-O Program practical skills for delivering simple rhythm and movement
- activities that require no prior music experience or training, and very few resources to implement



MINI CONFERENCE - MACKAY

Saturday 25th October | 9.00am - 3.00pm | LOCATION: Ocean International Hotel

Planning for children's social and emotional development

PRESENTER - Jennifer Ribarovski

Planning for children's positive social and emotional development is critical to their wellbeing, strong sense of self, and the way in which they view themselves as effectiveness learners. This session will leave participants with an understanding of how planning for children's social and emotional development can be effectively incorporated into the planning cycle, using practical examples to demonstrate key concepts.

Being playful with planning and programming : good for children, good for educators

PRESENTER - Stephen Gallen

Being an educator is a challenging and complex role with many demands on your time and energy. How do you maintain your own wellbeing while giving as much as you can to the children you are caring for and educating? And at the same time meet all the requirements that go with the role, the health and safety, the housekeeping and most of all - the planning and programming? Where is the time for you and the children to just 'play' and 'be' together?

In this session we will focus on how you can plan, design and implement a program that is truly play based, one that is child centred and supports both you and children to 'breathe' and to 'be'.

Through practical hands on experiences and real life stories of practice we will unpack the 'nuts and bolts' of just how you can use your observations and knowledge of children to extend on their interests, their learning and their development in truly play based ways. You'll get practical tips, suggestions, strategies and ideas not just for play based experiences but also for time saving ways to document your planning cycle and make the 'system' work for you.

The Science of Connection – Attachment, Trauma, and Therapeutic Play in Early Childhood Settings

PRESENTER - Katelyn McArthur

This engaging and practical workshop explores the powerful intersection between attachment, trauma, and brain development, offering educators a deeper understanding of how early relationships shape a child's emotional and social world. Participants will gain insights into the impact of trauma on developing neural pathways and how it can influence behaviour, regulation, and relational patterns.

Through a blend of theory and hands-on strategies, this workshop introduces key therapeutic play skills that educators can use to engage with children in meaningful, responsive ways. By understanding the science of connection and applying therapeutic approaches within everyday routines, educators will be empowered to:

- Foster secure attachments
- Support co-regulation and resilience
- Create emotionally safe and responsive learning environments
- Recognise and respond to trauma-related behaviours with compassion and confidence

This workshop bridges play therapy principles with practical classroom tools, supporting educators to become a therapeutic presence in the lives of the children they care for.

MINI CONFERENCE - GOLD COAST

Saturday 1st November | 9.00am - 3.00pm |

LOCATION - Palmer Golf Course

Children as Flexible thinkers: An executive functioning perspective

PRESENTER - Dr Lisa Sonter and Sue Southey

Executive functioning skills are the higher order mental functions that include working memory, self-regulation and cognitive flexibility. This session explores educators' practice using an executive functioning lens to support children's learning and in particular their capacity to think flexibly. Supporting children to become flexible thinkers enables them to think creatively, to become problem solvers and innovators, setting them up to thrive as global citizens in an increasingly connected and complex world. Practical strategies will be explored as well as highlighting practices being used successfully in early childhood programs currently using an executive functioning lens for teaching and learning.

Finding Your Balance. Exploring Slow Pedagogy in Early Childhood Education

PRESENTER - Catharine Hydon

The concept of Slow Pedagogy in early childhood education is gaining traction across the globe. Faced with increasing complexity and the rapid pace of change, educators are turning to an approach that emphasises the importance of balance - taking time to engage deeply with children, fostering meaningful relationships, and creating rich learning experiences. Slow pedagogy values childhood as a unique and important stage of life rather than merely a preparation for the future and offers practitioners a way to restore their balance and find our pace. In this interactive session facilitated by Catharine Hydon participants will be invited to explore the principles of slow pedagogy and apply them to their context and the key ideas that shape our everyday practice.

I am Me - What is your identity?

PRESENTER - Aunty Sharron mirii Bell

What makes you, you?

Join proud Gamilaraay Wiradjuri woman and QLD Children Rights Ambassador, Aunty Sharron mirii Bell as she takes us all on a journey of identity and rights of the child. Together we will acknowledge Country and our Elders through song and dance, followed by a beautiful ceremony lead by Aunty Sharron. This session will engage our senses as we identify who we are with hands-on activities and the meaning behind her new song, 'I Am Me.' "Understanding our own identity, not only gives us a sense of well being, but gives us a solid foundation for feeling loved and being accepted for who we are...for that is all we can be."

.....

WEBINAR Statewide online

Tuesday 11th November | 3.30pm to 4.30pm

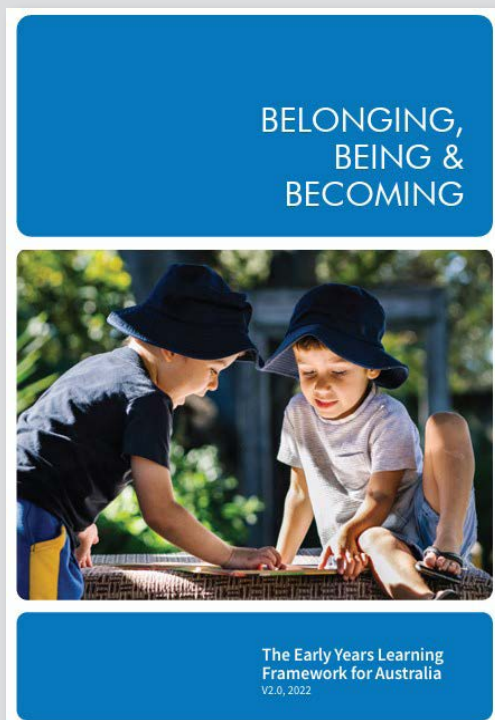
Implementing the EYLF v2.0: Getting the Foundations Right

PRESENTER - Catharine Hydon

Implementing the Early Years Learning Framework v2.0 is fundamental to quality early childhood education. As we get to know this updated version and before we leap into innovation, it is essential that we re-examine our foundational practice and ensure that everyday teaching and learning practice reflects the revised expectations.

In this session, educators and leaders are invited to revisit the updated framework to identify the implications for our foundational work in aspects like planning and engagement with the outcomes and the intersection with the QKLG.

Come along with foundational questions and bring your copy of the EYLF 2.0 and the QKLG.



PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHY

BIO - Sharron mirii Bell

Sharron mirii Bell is a proud Gamilaraay Wiradyuri woman, singer-songwriter and founder of Indigenous Insights since 2005. Her daughter, Jess, works along side her, focusing on Cultural Education and Well-being for children, families and educators providing live concerts and performances, professional development, and early childhood teachings.

BIO - Sheila Degotardi

Sheila Degotardi is a Professor of Early Childhood Education in the School of Education, Macquarie University, Sydney. Sheila specialises in the nature and importance of infant-toddler pedagogies and learning in early childhood education centres. Drawing on over thirty years' experience as an early childhood teacher and researcher, she is strongly committed to supporting early childhood services, teachers and educators to provide rich learning opportunities for our youngest children. With a deep interest in relationship-based pedagogies, Sheila investigates the nature of social interactions between children, their educators and peers to consider how these interactions contribute towards very young children's learning. Central to this is a deep appreciation of how the social, communicative and cognitive capabilities of very young children and their educators collectively shape the learning experiences that take place in infant-toddler settings.

BIO - Stephen Gallen

Stephen is a qualified Early Childhood Teacher, with an undergraduate degree focussing on critical theory and developmental psychology, and post-graduate qualifications in Early Childhood Education. With nearly 30 years experience in the field, he has worked as a contact educator for many years, as well as in leadership roles, across long day care, primary and preschool, school aged care and in-home care, working extensively with children from birth to 6 years. Stephen was a founding member of the QUT Student Guild Kelvin Grove Centre (School Street) and has been delivering professional development to the sector since 1998, working with Gowrie Qld, TAFE, QUT, the Workforce Council, Centacare, QLECS, the Community Child Care Association (Victoria), C&K Qld, NRPA and many other organisations.

BIO - Dr Geraldine Harris

Geraldine brings over 30 years of experience in early childhood leadership and management of place-based approaches, integrated service provision both in Australian and in England. In her roles of championing children's social and emotional wellbeing has gained experience from Government, NGO and private sector organisations. Geraldine has authored the neuro-informed Foundations for Families a Birth to Three Framework of Effective Practice, written book chapters on Transpirational leadership focussed on place-based approaches of collective action and on the emerging field of Playwork leadership.

A social cartographer, her PhD in place-based leadership made visible the relationality that exists between the ecological, social and individual conditions ; and how these conditions impact children's development, partnership health and leadership wellbeing within movements of collective action. As the Executive Director of the Pathways to Resilience, Geraldine combines her passion as an advocate for children's rights, together with a neuro-informed approach to understanding child development & children's wellbeing; and her belief that a collective approach is required, to enhance children's wellbeing.

BIO - Dr Kaylene Henderson

Dr Kaylene Henderson is a medically trained child health specialist and one of Australia's leading parenting experts. She is also a grateful mother of three zany young kids.

Kaylene is passionate about 'translating' research-based information into practical tips and sharing these with you – parents and educators – since you're the ones who spend the most amount of time with our next generation!

Popular for sharing her expertise in a warm and relatable way, Kaylene has created a range of resources, ensuring that you can access helpful, expert advice in the way that best suits you.

PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHY

BIO - Catharine Hydon

Dip Teaching (Early Childhood); MEd (Early Childhood Education); Dip. Gov.; FICDA - Fellow of the Institute of Community Directors Australia; MICDA - Member of the Institute of Community Directors Australia. With over 30 years experience leading and advocating for quality early childhood education and care, Catharine Hydon's work as the Principal Consultant and Director at Hydon Consulting, focuses on supporting professionals to explore the relationship between theory and practice.

Catharine's collaborative approach and engaging style have taken her across Australia, where she partners with leaders and educators in a collective effort to create meaning, define quality, and engage in the art of transformational change. Central to her work is the cultivation of professional dialogue that embraces diversity and invites deep reflection.

Informed by a Masters in early childhood education, specializing in innovative practice and governance, Catharine is driven by the need for principled approaches to education and leadership, especially in complex times. She brings stories of practice to the intersections of theory, fostering co-design and capacity sharing.

Catharine is a long-time member of Early Childhood Australia (ECA), actively contributing to ECA's Reconciliation work and regularly writing for ECA publications and professional learning platforms. For the past five years, she has led the facilitator team for ECA's Colloquia on Leadership and Ethics. Additionally, she serves as a Board Member of the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority and has been re-appointed as a second-tier reviewer for ACECQA.

In 2022, Catharine completed a Diploma of Governance, further deepening her interest and understanding of how effective governance, principled decision-making, and ethical leadership can support positive outcomes for children and communities.

BIO - Sue Inglis

Sue is the leader of Pelican Waters Golden Beach Kindergarten and Childcare Centre. Fondly referred to the Bush and Beach Kindy, due to the suite of nature programs that are offered to children and educators. She is passionate about the importance of the early years in a child's life. Sue is a keen advocate of quality early childhood education, and enjoys developing meaningful learning opportunities alongside educators, children, families and community. Sue believes that children who have shared enjoyable and purposeful learning moments in their foundational years develop a positive lens with which to view the world as they grow into their lives. Sue has recently led this team to an Excellence rating for the 3rd time.

BIO - Tyler Inglis

Hello, my name is Tyler. I am a teacher at the Bush and Beach kindy, located in Golden Beach, QLD. I have been an early childhood educator for nine years and feel an immense sense that my life's work will be dedicated to this purpose. My role in our place predominantly finds me outside in our yard, playing. I am passionate about play and about adults playing too. Playfulness being, in my opinion, an essential nutrient to a well lived life. I am the coordinator and educational leader of our Nature Camp program. A regular and all-day program where we venture out into the wondrous natural environments our place has to offer. In moments of my life outside of early childhood work, I like to play in other ways. I climb trees, write poetry, play guitar, swim in waterfalls, surf, skateboard, play tennis, recover from injuries or spend time with amazing friends. Yes, I still see risky play as important to my life and feel a knowing that is critical to children's lives also. I hope we get to cross paths and enjoy a moment together.

BIO - Songwoman Maroochy

Songwoman Maroochy is an Elder and the Songwoman and Law-woman of the Turrbal People, the original inhabitants of Brisbane, and the Dippil people of the Sunshine Coast area. She is a direct descendant of Daki Yakka – Chief of the Old Brisbane tribe.

Songwoman Maroochy is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, an internationally-renowned opera singer and has received awards both here in Australia and overseas. She was the first Australian to perform at the United Nations in New York in 1993 in honour of the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples.

PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHY

BIO - Katelyn McArthur

Katelyn is a Masters-qualified Play Therapist and former early childhood teacher with over a decade of experience across teaching, leadership, and management roles in Queensland and Victoria. As the founder of Sunshine Coast Child Play Therapy, she specialises in supporting children's emotional wellbeing through play-based interventions. Katelyn is passionate about helping educators, caregivers, and families create transformative environments that foster emotional security, meaningful connections, and deep engagement—supporting every child's unique developmental journey. She is deeply committed to empowering those who care for children to respond with confidence, compassion, and curiosity.

BIO - Kelly Oldfield

Kelly Oldfield is an experienced Behaviour Consultant with over 17 years of expertise in supporting children aged 2 to 16, including those with complex and high-risk behaviours. By collaborating, with Primary and High Schools, Education Support Centres, Early Learning Centres, and OSHC Services across both metropolitan and regional Australia. Through her evidence-based, data-driven approach, Kelly is committed to capacity-building and upskilling educators. Working closely with organisations delivering strategies to decrease challenging behaviours and creating positive environments, promoting positive relationships, safety, and success for all. Her consulting services span diverse settings across Australia, ensuring tailored, impactful support for each unique context.

BIO - Louise Phillips

Dr Louise Gwenneth Phillips is a professional storyteller, coach, consultant, researcher, and author. After a long career as an academic and early childhood teacher, Louise is now Director of Lou.P.Tales Coaching & Consulting. Her research and publications on storytelling and literacy education are internationally renowned (see <https://louptales.education/>).

BIO - Jennifer Ribarovski

Jennifer Ribarovski is the Managing Director of JR Education Consulting Services Pty. Ltd. and holds a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and a Master of Educational Leadership and Management with Distinction. She has over thirty-five years' experience in the education and care sector, including playing a key role in the implementation of the NQF for both the NSW Regulatory Authority and ACECQA. Jen has taught in preschools, early childhood centres, public schools, at universities and has a wealth of experience in translating educational theory into practice. She has delivered professional development sessions to tens of thousands of Australian teachers and educators and is currently also working internationally with educators in Cambodia and China. She co-authored Professional Communication for Early Childhood Educators, published by Oxford University Press, with Marianne Fenech from the University of Sydney. Her experience and interest in communication as an essential professional tool for teachers and educators led to the publication of this resource, the first of its kind in Australia. In 2024, Jennifer was the inaugural winner of the 2024 State of Our Sector Award for most significant contribution to educators and teachers.

BIO - Vicki Saylor

Vicki Saylor is a descendant of Manbarra Tribe, Birragubba Nation, Tanna Island and White Australian. Vicki is a dynamic and visionary community leader renowned for her expertise in event management and cultural programming. With a background in early childhood education, she has passionately championed the integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in educational environments. Vicki's commitment to authentic storytelling, respectful relationality, and innovative community engagement has led her to develop transformative initiatives that celebrate cultural diversity and foster social inclusion. Recognised for her collaborative spirit and creative leadership, she continuously seeks to empower communities and inspire meaningful connections through art, education, and cultural exchange. Her passion drives change and ignites community hope.

PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHY

BIO - Dr Lisa Sonter

Dr Lisa Sonter is a teacher, consultant, mentor, author and lecturer with over thirty-five years of experience in the early childhood education and care sector. Lisa is President of the Queensland Early Childhood Sustainability Network (QECSN). Lisa is particularly interested in play-based pedagogies, early childhood education for sustainability, executive functioning and professional practice.

BIO - Sue Southey

Sue has been involved in a range of professional roles in early childhood education. She had many years as a teacher, nominated supervisor and educational leader in community kindergartens. Her professional experience includes university lecturing and tutoring, curriculum development with QCAA and eKindy, pedagogy and practice mentor in long day care. Her current role is as a consultant and professional development provider.

BIO - Hayley Streater

Hayley Streater holds a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood). She has been working in the field of early childhood education for 14 years with children 0-5 years. Hayley currently works with children 3 years and under at the Bush and Beach Kindy and is committed to nurturing each child's emotional well-being through secure attachments. Hayley believes educators in early years settings play an integral role in providing secure, loving relationships for children, which ultimately provides a "map" for the child's future relationships, and the child's relationship with themselves. Hayley has a special interest in attachment theory and has facilitated workshops in the Circle of Security. Hayley draws on this information and applies it in the daily lived journey at Bush and Beach Kindy. Through heartfelt relationships with children, it fills Hayley with joy to witness children flourish.

BIO - Kristen Zimmerlie

Hi, I am Kristen. I am the Bush and Beach Kindy Co-ordinator at Pelican Waters Golden Beach Kindergarten and Childcare Centre. Full time Kindergarten practitioner and support educator for our holistic Nature Camp Kindergarten program. I am a bachelor trained Early Childhood Teacher and qualified Forest School Practitioner. Known as a passionate advocate for natural childhoods. My career has been shaped by rich and diverse training and teaching experiences in nature-based education programs in England, Canada and Queensland, Australia. Our Kindy culture celebrates children's play as the vehicle to explore and make connections with their world and each other, while honouring children's rights to natural spaces and childhoods. These philosophical foundations are interwoven into a fabric that supports the child's journey of self-discovery and deep connection to place. The expressive languages celebrate each child's voice and experience of the world and their identity within it. It is a great pleasure to present the children's experiences and knowing of their play and our natural landscapes.



85 YEARS LADY GOWRIE QUEENSLAND

